

**ACTION COPY**

**EXECUTIVE OFFICE**  
*IT. COFF. HEBOL*

ADDRESS ONLY THE REGIONAL DIRECTOR  
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
AND REFER TO  
**River Basins**

**UNITED STATES**  
**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**  
**FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE**

REGION 1

WASHINGTON  
OREGON  
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OFFICE OF REGIONAL DIRECTOR

~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~  
Swan Island  
PORTLAND, OREGON

(18)

February 25, 1949

*88. [Signature]*  
*Hayden*  
*STOKES*  
*M+R*

Colonel L. H. Hewitt, District Engineer,  
Seattle District, Corps of Engineers,  
4735 E. Marginal Way,  
Seattle 4, Washington.

Dear Colonel Hewitt:

With reference to your letter, File No. 821.207, of January 25 on the subject of "Proposed Dams on the Skagit River", this office submits, after a brief study of the problems involved, the following comments:

**(a) Faber Project:** This project does not meet with our approval because of the extensive loss to anadromous fishes which would result. The construction of a dam at this location would be a severe blow to all salmonoid migratory species now utilizing the Skagit River. The proposed reservoir would inundate practically all of the most important spawning beds used by salmon and steelhead below Gorge Dam. In addition, the lower portions of the Cascade River and the Sauk River would be flooded with further loss of spawning and rearing area. The new Marblemount Hatchery, operated by the Washington State Game Department and built at a cost of about \$500,000, would be flooded out and totally lost. With the exception of the Columbia River, the Skagit River is regarded as the best salmon stream in the State of Washington. Of the projects proposed, Faber would be the most effective in destroying the fishery resources of the Skagit.

**(b) Lower Sauk Dam:** This project does not meet with our approval because a tremendous fish loss would occur. Sauk River is rich in spawning area and is a stream with no barriers or obstructions at the present time. Suittle River is the main tributary to Sauk River and it supports a large salmon and steelhead population. Sauk River and tributaries have considerable value as fish producers, and this production can be maintained and probably increased if the stream is left in



*file*  
*mf*

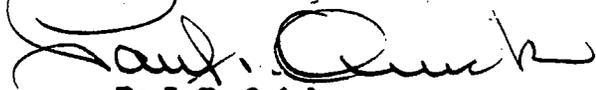
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its present virgin state.

This office wishes to refrain from making a definite statement as to the Cascade Project and the Baker Project (Upper Unit), until we have given them greater study.

The foregoing comments are based on preliminary information that we have. We appreciate your informing us of the preliminary plans for the Skagit River and hope you will keep us informed on the progress of your investigation. When definite project plans are made, we should like to study them in detail and prepare a report on the anticipated effects on fish and wildlife in cooperation with the State of Washington Departments of Fisheries and Game.

Very truly yours,



Paul T. Quick,  
Acting Regional Director.